

Message

What you need to know to start your day.

**From:** Bloomberg Environment -  
Environment & Energy Report  
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**Sent:** 5/9/2019 11:04:49 AM  
**To:** Bertrand, Charlotte  
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**Subject:** First Move: McConnell Could  
Force Another Climate Vote

**Bloomberg  
Environment**

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## McConnell Could Force Another Climate Vote



By [Chuck McCutcheon](#)

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell may again force Senate Democrats to go on the record in voting on climate change, Dean Scott writes.

- McConnell (R-Ky.) [moved this week](#) to put the House-passed bill that would keep the U.S. in the Paris Agreement ([H.R. 9](#)) on the Senate floor calendar, a maneuver that bypasses committee consideration. McConnell spokesman David Popp cautioned that putting the bill on the legislative calendar “doesn’t guarantee a vote” will be held. McConnell [earlier brought up](#) a Green New Deal resolution ([S.J.Res.8](#)), only to have most Democrats simply vote “present” without taking a position either way.
- Some Democratic senators called bringing up the Paris Agreement bill a cynical move, because McConnell would only do so if he was certain the measure would be defeated. But Sen. Ben Cardin (D-Md.) sees a potential upside: “We might get all Democrats on that. Might not get 100 percent, but

you'll get a strong vote. We welcome that vote. I think it puts the Republicans in a tough position.”

## FLOOD INSURANCE SQUABBLING RESUMES

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After a brief pause, the House and Senate resume a high-stakes game of chicken over the fate of the National Flood Insurance Program.

- The program provides subsidized coverage for homes in flood-prone areas. It is nearing the end of its 10th short-term extension in less than two years, and House Democratic leaders are expected to attach an 11th extension today to a larger disaster relief bill.



Residents walk down a flooded street from 2017's Hurricane Harvey in Houston, Texas.

Photographer: Joe Raedle/Getty Images

- But both the Republican-controlled Senate and the White House have signaled they won't back the extension because they believe it commits too much funding to storm-ravaged Puerto Rico. If Congress doesn't act before the end of the month, the insurance program will expire.

## OFFSHORE WIND FIRM DANGLES PERKS

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A U.S. unit of Denmark's Orsted A/S wants to avoid the local gripes about disruptive wind turbines that derailed Massachusetts' Cape Wind project—so it's offering communities plenty of incentives, Bloomberg News' Christopher Martin writes.

- One package includes \$93 million to upgrade a New London, Conn., pier so it can handle the heavy-lift requirements of offshore turbines, as well as a \$3 million upgrade to its fishing vessel port. “We’re over the moon,” New London Mayor Michael Passero said. “We’ve been down on our luck for decades.”
- In New York, Orsted also is offering to help revitalize a village on Long Island's North Shore, and promising a \$10 million investment in Suffolk

County Community College to train future technicians. Other developers like Vineyard Wind, a partnership of Avangrid Inc. and Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners, have agreed to halt some construction during migration of the endangered right whale, add buoy monitors and curtail work during nearby whale sightings.

## WHAT ELSE WE'RE WATCHING

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- The House Natural Resources Committee discusses revamping a 1872 hardrock mining law that Democrats say allows companies to exploit minerals without paying taxes or containing pollution. Natural Resources Chairman Raul Grijalva (D-Ariz.) and Sen. Tom Udall (D-N.M.) will introduce a bill today to update the law to require cleanup of toxic mining chemicals, institute royalties for use of land, and give the public a greater say in the creation of a mine.
- Energy Secretary Rick Perry goes before a House energy subcommittee to discuss his agency's fiscal 2020 budget request.
- Officials address the agency's Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee. Democrats last fall questioned Administrator Andrew Wheeler's commitment to improving children's health, with Wheeler publicly reaffirming his interest.
- The Rhodium Group releases a report on near-term policy options to boost carbon capture and utilization and direct air capture technologies.

## DAILY RUNDOWN

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### Top Stories

#### California to Ban Pesticide Chlorpyrifos

California, the nation's largest and most-productive agricultural state, announced plans to ban the widely used pesticide chlorpyrifos.

#### Exelon to Shut Three Mile Island as Nuke Bill Founders

Exelon Corp. says it's moving forward with plans to close the Three Mile Island nuclear plant in Pennsylvania after a bid to bail out struggling reactors has failed to advance in the state legislature.

### Energy

#### Utilities Head to Court Over Canada-to-U.S. Hydropower Plan

Utility giants Avangrid and NextEra Energy Resources LLC are headed to court

over a plan to bring hydropower from Canada to Massachusetts on transmission lines.

#### Walmart Agrees to Power More Than 40 Stores With Solar Energy

Walmart Inc. reached a deal to power more than 40 stores in five states with solar energy as it works toward a goal of getting half its electricity from renewables by 2025.

### **Environment**

#### Ban Asbestos Now, Democrats on House Committee Tell EPA

Asbestos must be banned to prevent more deaths, Democrats on a House committee said.

#### California Overestimates Greenhouse Gas Reduction, Study Claims

California is overestimating the amount of greenhouse gases absorbed by forests under the state's cap-and-trade program, a University of California, Berkeley researcher reports.

### **TODAY'S EVENTS**

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- **9:30 a.m. · Carbon Capture** · Bipartisan Policy Center hosts panel discussion on near-term policy opportunities for carbon removal with direct air capture.
- **10 a.m. · Mining** · House natural resources' panel conducts hearing on legislation to be introduced that would modernize the 1872 mining law.
- **5 p.m. · Energy** · Johns Hopkins' SAIS holds panel discussion on India's rural electricity demand.
- **5 p.m. · Energy** · Center for Strategic and International Studies hosts a book launch for Daniel B. Poneman's "Double Jeopardy: Combating Nuclear Terror and Climate Change," arguing for an "all-of-the-above" energy policy that seeks to decarbonize by any and every means possible.

### **AROUND THE WEB**

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- A bipartisan group of Pennsylvania lawmakers is re-introducing bills that would require the state to have all-renewable energy by 2050.
- The EPA would study the impacts of sunscreen chemicals on human health and the environment under a new bill from Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.). Another new Merkley bill would require the FDA to set an industry standard for what sunscreens can be labeled as safe for coral reefs. Hawaii

and [Key West](#), Fla., have taken steps to restrict coral reef-harming sunscreens.

- The first round of applications to split the Texas share of the Volkswagen emissions settlement fund [will award \\$58 million](#) for projects replacing or repowering buses, the state's environmental regulator says.

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